

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A composite monitoring system comprising:

a patient monitor including a sensor arranged to sense a physiological characteristic of a patient and a signal processor coupled to said sensor and adapted to process the signal from said sensor and an output member; and

a defibrillator module adapted to be selectively coupled to said patient monitor, said defibrillator module including a pulse generator responsive to commands to generate therapeutic pulses for the patient, and a data generator arranged to generate indication signals indicative of an operation of said defibrillator module;

said patient monitor and said defibrillator module cooperating when coupled to transfer said indication signal to said output member whereby said output member generates output signals corresponding to one of said patient characteristic and said indication signals.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein said output member includes a display generating visual images.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein said output member includes a printer adapted to print a hard copies.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein said sensor comprises a cardiac sensor adapted to generate an external ECG and wherein said patient monitor is adapted to transmit said external ECG to said defibrillator module.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein said sensor is adapted to sense at least one of the physiological parameters selected from the group consisting of blood pressure, arterial pulse oximetry (SpO₂), carbon dioxide (CO₂), respiration, and cardiac output.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein said defibrillator module includes a defibrillator display.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein said defibrillator module includes a selector arranged and constructed to allow an operator to generate operational parameters for said defibrillator module, said operational parameters defining a mode of operation for said defibrillator module.

8. The system of claim 6 wherein said defibrillator module includes a defibrillator display arranged to provide information associated with the selection of said operational parameters.

9. A defibrillator module comprising:

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a physiological sensor to sense the intrinsic cardiac activity of a patient and to generate a sensor signal indicative of said intrinsic cardiac activity;

a controller arranged to receive said sensor signal and to generate corresponding commands;

a pulse generator arranged to generate therapeutic pulses for the patient in response to said commands;

an output member associated with said controller and adapted to generate output signals indicative of an operation of the defibrillator, said output signals being selected for transmittal to an external patient monitor for display.

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10. The module of claim 9 wherein controller includes an arrhythmia detector arranged to receive said sensor signal and to determine a cardiac condition of the patient that requires therapy.

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11. The module of claim 10 wherein said output member is adapted to receive a physiological parameter detected by said external patient monitor, and wherein said arrhythmia detector is adapted to receive said physiological monitor and to make a determination for delivering therapy to the patient based on said physiological parameter.

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12. The module of claim 9 wherein said output member is coupled to said pulse generator and is adapted to generate said output signals to indicate generation of pulses by said pulse generator for said patient monitor.

13. The module of claim 9 wherein said controller is arranged to define a plurality of modes of operation including a fully automatic, an advisory, a manual, and a pacing modes.

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14. The module of claim 9 further comprising an alarm circuit arranged to generate an alarm signal indicative of one of a patient condition and a module condition.

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15. The module of claim 14 wherein said module is adapted to send said alarm signal to a remote location over a communications network selected from a group consisting of hard-wired network, a wireless network, a local area network, a wide area network, the Internet, a paging system, a cellular telephone system, a telemetry system and a satellite system.

16. The module of claim 9 further comprising a display adapted to display said sensor signal.

17. The module of claim 9 wherein said controller is adapted a physiological parameter from the external patient monitor and to use said physiological parameter to generate said commands.

18. A defibrillator module comprising:

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a controller arranged to receive a sensor signal indicative of the intrinsic cardiac activity of a patient and to generate corresponding commands;

a pulse generator arranged to generate therapeutic pulses for the patient in response to said commands;

an output member associated with said controller and adapted to generate output signals indicative of an operation of the defibrillator, said output signals being selected for transmittal to an external patient monitor for display.

19. The module of claim 18 further comprising a sensor adapted to sense said sensor signal.

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20. The module of claim 18 wherein said controller is adapted to receive said sensor signal from said external patient monitor.

21. The module of claim 18 further comprising a physiological parameter detector that detects a physiological parameter, said controller being adapted to transmit said physiological parameter to said external patient monitor for display and processing.

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